

# Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs

## 2014 Regional Conferences

### October 2, 2014 – Valparaiso

## Agenda

- 8:30 am      **REGISTRATION**
- 9:00 am      **Welcome**
- 9:15 am      **OCRA Introduction**  
Gerry White, Northwest Community Liaison  
  
*Overview of agency mission and service structure.*
- 9:30 am      **Stellar Communities**  
Kathleen Weissenberger, State CDBG Director  
Matt Crouch, Project Manager  
  
*Overview of the Stellar Communities program, including eligibility and requirements. Additional information from the Sagamore Institute regarding success of the program will also be shared.*
- 10:00 am     **Indiana Main Street – Economic Restructuring**  
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager  
  
*Learn more about the basic concept of Economic Restructuring within downtowns including information on projects underway in other communities, partners you should have around the table and more!*
- 10:30 am     **Hometown Collaboration Initiative**  
Bo Beaulieu, Director, Purdue Center for Regional Development,  
Michael Wilcox, Assistant Program Leader, Economic & Community  
Development, Purdue Extension,  
Sharon Canaday, Associate Director, Economic & Community Development,  
Ball State Building Better Communities,  
Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development and Community Affairs  
  
*The launch of a new organizational model for communities to build their leadership pipeline, grow their economy and leverage their quality of place.*
- 11:30 am     **Lunch**
- 12:00 pm     **Keynote Address - Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann and Indiana  
Economic Development Corporation's President Eric Doden**
- 1:00 pm      **Community Readiness Initiative**  
Dick Heupel, Director Economic & Community Development, Ball State Building  
Better Communities,  
Sharon Canaday, Associate Director, Economic & Community Development,  
Ball State Building Better Communities,  
Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development and Community Affairs  
  
*The launch of an innovative community economic development assessment tool.*

- 1:45 pm      **Networking Break**
- 2:15 pm      **Indiana Main Street - Event Planning 101**  
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager
- Events can be a challenge in any community. Learn helpful tips to making your events more successful from volunteers to evaluation. This will be an interactive session, so come prepared to share what works in your community!*
- 2:45 pm      **Community Entrepreneurship Initiative**  
*Consulting services and training for community economic development leaders, elected officials, and citizens interested in forging local initiatives to grow and retain entrepreneurs.*
- Bicentennial Torch Relay**  
Geoff Schomacker, Director of Project Development and Community Affairs
- Overview and updates of the Bicentennial Torch Relay.*
- 3:15 pm      **Indiana Shovel Ready Certification**  
Matt Crouch, Project Manager
- Overview of the program, eligibility and requirements as well as the upcoming online application. Updates on the process for previously certified sites.*
- 3:45 pm      **Investing in Place:**
- Community Enhancement and Economic Development**  
Kathleen Weissenberger, State CDBG Director
- The Community Enhancement and Economic Development (CEED) section 108 program provides communities with a source of loan financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and other large-scale projects.*
- Place Based Investment Fund**  
Colette Griffin, Project Manager
- The Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF) is a competitive grant program that funds efforts by Indiana communities to become even greater places to visit, live and work.*
- Downtown Enhancement Grant**  
Shae Kmicikewycz, Program Manager
- The Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG) program is designed to foster innovative approaches to activities, which support and promote community based planning, pre-development, and research initiatives.*
- Main Street Revitalization Program**  
Ryan Shrack, Northeast Community Liaison
- The Main Street Revitalization Program (MSRP) encourages communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development efforts.*
- 4:30 pm      **Adjourn**